Guidelines for NTTN Net Control operators

HF capability, a minimum of General Class license and a regular participant in a HF net that handles formal traffic is expected of all NCS operators. NTTN can not be effective without liaison's to the Section nets.

We should remember that we are a traffic net, not a "check-in-for-the-numbers" or a social, rag-chew QSO net. The NCS should maintain net discipline and not allow non-traffic related conversation while the net is in session. Emphasis should be on processing message traffic into and out of NW Oregon, not chit-chat. Save that for after the session.

Section boundaries should be maintained and we should instruct Washington Stations to use Washington Section nets for Washington Section traffic, as instructed in the established protocol in the MPG. Only emergency situations override this restriction.

We should discourage the use of cell phone delivery to distant locations. As a training point, in a "grid down" scenario, the cell phone network, the internet and repeaters may not be available past 72 hours and we should set an example that radio, simplex radio more particularly, may be our only means of communications on VHF/UHF frequencies. If no outlet exists, messages should be serviced back to the originator as "undeliverable, no outlet." (ARL SIXTY SEVEN ## NO OUTLET.) Using cell phones to deliver to locations outside of our coverage area is discouraged. Limit cell phone delivery to "last mile" only. Get the message relayed to the destination city by radio and service messages back if there is no radio outlet available to do that.

NTTN coverage area should be defined as being from the Pacific Ocean to the Cascade Mt. range, E - W; Salem to the Columbia River, N - S. Traffic coming from the Section level nets should be restricted to this area only. There will be coverage gaps. Liaison stations from the Section nets should limit traffic to these boundaries. This is dependent on the coverage area of the 145.27 repeater and possibly one more linked repeater. I am not in favor of linking every WORC box. This will define the areas that NTTN can service, placing more reliance on the Oregon Section nets to cover what NTTN cannot. RRI suggests that Local level nets use "working" frequencies separate from the net frequency to handle traffic. Linking every repeater in the territory makes it difficult to move to a working repeater frequency and expands the nets coverage area beyond the local net level, into section net territory.

After traffic is listed on the net, moving stations off of net frequency for processing, as RRI suggests, is established protocol on HF nets and should be done on NTTN sessions, not only as a training example, but to free the net frequency so the net may resume rather than processing the traffic there. The use of simplex should be encouraged and stations should be able to move to another repeater that is co-operable. Operators need to be aware of their options and plan accordingly.

Be punctual, be on time to start. Handling traffic is our first priority. Make sure the Section net liaison(s) are assigned outgoing traffic first and that incoming traffic is arranged (off frequency if possible) prior to roll call so the liaison(s) can be excused to meet their Section net schedules. NTTN is sandwiched between two Section nets. Outbound cycle 4 Section net begins at 18:30 local time. Give them time to prepare their "hook".